

The Topeka State Journal.

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TOPEKA, KANSAS, TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 16, 1894.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

REFORM SCHOOL ROW

The Alleged Ill Treatment in That Institution,

Being Ventilated in Judge Johnson's Court.

EARL CAFFERTY CASE.

He Had About Earned His Discharge,

When He Got an Unusual Number of Demerit Marks.

A writ of habeas corpus was issued by Judge Johnson in the circuit court today, which will bring out an investigation of the methods of E. C. Hitchcock of the Reform school in regard to his treatment of the boys in his charge.

The writ issued orders to Superintendent Hitchcock to show cause why Earl Cafferty, a boy 14 years of age, should not be discharged from the Reform school.

A STATE JOURNAL reporter has through the interested parties in the case learned some of the inside facts which are intended to be brought out by this suit.

Earl Cafferty will be remembered by many readers of the STATE JOURNAL, as the boy who a few years ago with his dog travailed all over the United States against the wishes of his parents. The boy's father, T. S. Cafferty, is a roadmaster on the Santa Fe and the boy became a general favorite with the railroad men. He was allowed by the conductors to ride on the road and was passed over other roads. He went as far east as Boston on one trip and when he returned his father had him sent to the Reform school.

One of the Reform school teachers says the boy has been exemplary in his conduct and is entitled to his discharge independently of the rest of the school, which allows a small boy to charge which he has no right to do.

The boy last month secured over 200 merits and was to have been discharged from the institution at the last meeting of the state board of charities. The week before the board met the boy had a quarrel and fight with another boy and his teacher disallowed any merits for the offense, and the day before the board met Superintendent Hitchcock learning of the quarrel deducted an additional 200 credits from the boy's department, through which he could not be discharged.

The friends of the boy say Superintendent Hitchcock had no right to deduct from the boy's department in a case of this kind, and the court will be asked to rule on this point.

At the December meeting of the Board of Charities charges of brutality were preferred against Capt. Hitchcock, and an investigation was made at the last meeting. Dr. McAllin of the Advocate, Dr. Lea Hartung and Mrs. L. L. Hopkins were examined as witnesses.

When the investigation was ordered, an order prohibiting corporal punishment was made. After the last meeting this order was rescinded, and it is said that since that time Superintendent Hitchcock has been flogging a big rascally whip over the heads and backs of the boys, and that some of them have been severely whipped.

The petition for the writ of habeas corpus says:

"Hitchcock is an unfit person to have charge of such an institution, he being a man of such an temperament, tyrannical and brutal in his treatment of the boys in his charge, carrying about with him a raw hide whip with which he manfully beats the boys in his charge for slight infractions of the rules and regulations of the old school, and that to his management of the said school there is no attempt to separate the vicious and depraved inmates from those who are not of such vicious natures."

On the hearing of the case the Cafferty boy is released from the reform school as will then be sent to Washburn college. His father says he wants him to take a full classical course at that institution and the boy has promised to do his father's wills.

Ex-Senator H. B. Kelly, a member of the board of charities, was in the city today, and said "Not member of the board believed the charge preferred against Hitchcock to be true, after we last heard all of the evidence in the case, and even Dr. McAllin had to admit that he had been misinformed about the brutality of Superintendent Hitchcock."

"Some people acquainted with the management of such institutions think that no punishment whatever is necessary, and it is this class that has raised the cry against Hitchcock, yet it is impossible to conduct one institution without sometimes using the rod."

The thrashing of boys at the Reform school is nothing new. Under Superintendent Hitchcock's administration, whipping was one of the regular punishments.

MATTOX GUILTY.

Found Guilty of Murder in First Degree at Wichita Today.

WICHITA, Kan., Jan. 16.—Clyde Mattox was today found guilty of murder in the first degree. This was his third trial in the federal court here for the killing of John Mullin, at Oklahoma City, in December, 1888.

COVERED WITH ICE.

A Steamer in a Portland, Me., Harbor Makes a Queer Sight.

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 16.—The Diamond line steamer Labrador came up the harbor presenting a striking appearance. Every bit of iron or wood of her surface was covered with ice.

Chief Officer Skymore reports a very rough passage and that they encountered a heavy storm, during which the glass was remarkably low.

TARIFF AMENDMENTS.

The House Agrees to Several Proposed by Mr. Wilson.

At the opening of the session of the house this morning, Mr. Springer of Illinois asked unanimous consent to correct a newspaper report attributing some remarks made by Mr. Dalliver of Iowa to him.

It is remarked sarcastically that this was done, but that he would make no objection to Mr. Dalliver's act [Laughter].

Mr. Springer explained that he had commented on the tariff in highly instead of depreciating as reported.

The house resumed the consideration of the tariff bill.

Mr. Wilson immediately began offering some amendments. The first was to reduce the duty on hats for hatter's use, from 20 to 10 per cent.

The next amendment was one to place on the free list in addition to the books, etc., printed over twenty years, hydrographic prints. This was also agreed to.

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